First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Worship at Eleven
November 15, 2026
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to First Church!

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God.

Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.

Voluntary
Variations on *St. Anne* — Christa Rakich, 2015

Enter to Worship — Dayna McCrary
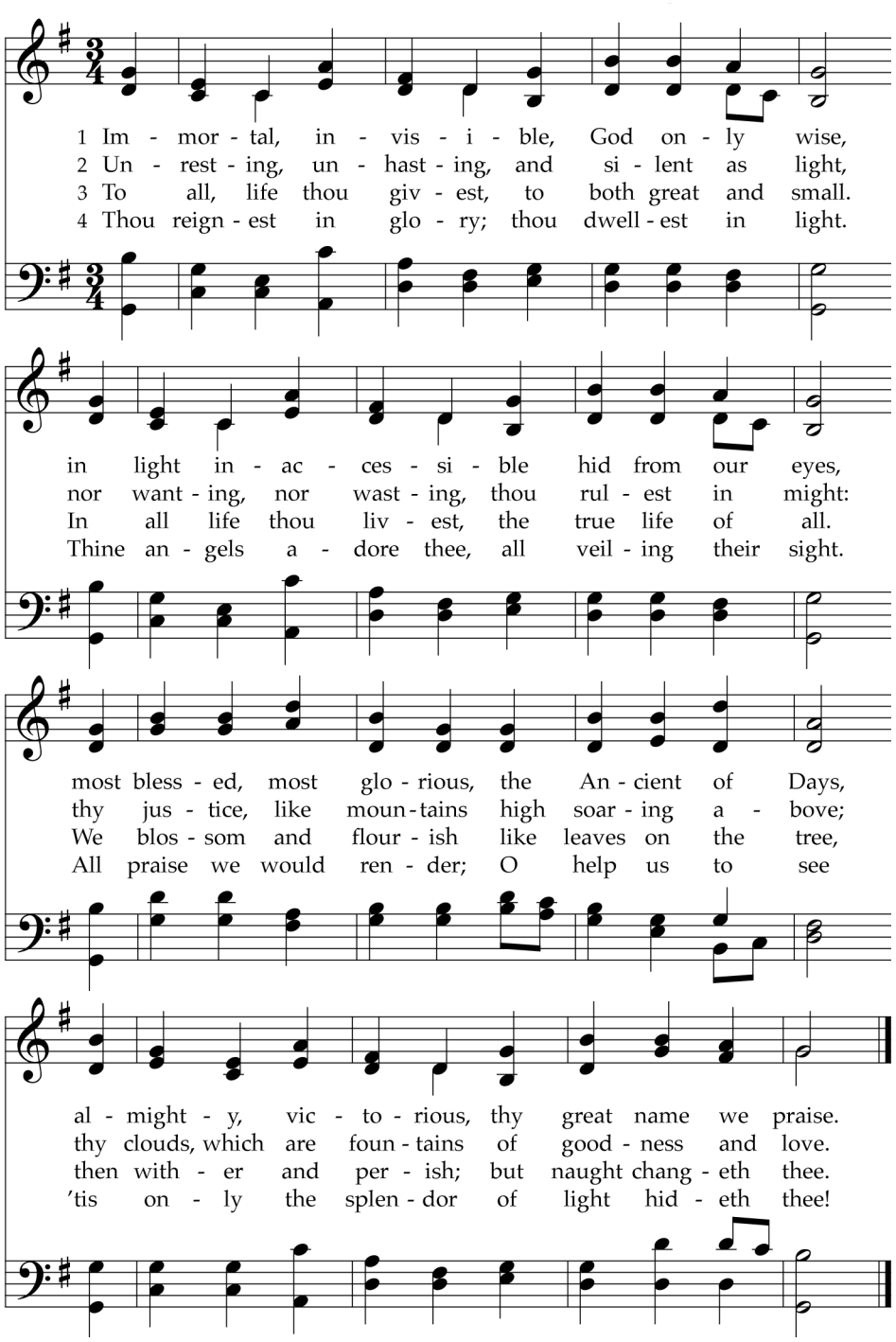
Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations
People: You have been our home throughout all the ages.

*Please stand as you are able. (*indicates congregation standing)*

*Leader: You were there before the world was made and will be forever.
People: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

*Processional Hymn — *St. Denio,* Welsh folk melody

"Immortal, invisible, God only wise" — Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.



*Welcome and Passing of the Peace — Rev. Becky David

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

** When you return to your seat, please find the blue Welcome notebook at the end of the pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor so we many greet one another by name.*

Invocation — Rev. David

Leader: Generous God,
in abundance You give us things both spiritual and physical.
Help us to hold lightly the fading things of this earth
and grasp tightly the lasting things of Your kingdom,
so that what we are and do and say
may be our gifts to You
through Christ, who beckons all to seek the things above,
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Anthem — Joseph W. Clokey, 1941

Treasures in Heaven — Matthew 6:19–21, 7:7–8

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rustdoth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you, for every one that asketh receiveth and he that seeketh findeth and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

The Hebrew Scripture — Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 — Ms. McCrary

Leader: A reading from the Book of of the Prophet Zephaniah, the first chapter.
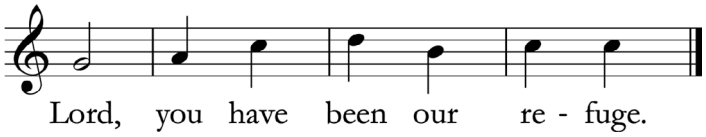
Remain silent in the presence of Sovereign YHWH, for the Day of YHWH is near. YHWH has prepared a sacrifice and set apart those invited. When that time comes I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish those who are complacent in their sin, who say in their hearts, "YHWH has no power for good or for evil." Their wealth will plundered, their households looted. They will build houses and never live in them, plant vineyards but never drink their own wine. The great Day of YHWH is near and coming fast! How bitter the sound of the Day of YHWH, the day of the warrior's war cry! That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and agony, a day of ruin and of devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of cloud and fog, a day of trumpet roar and battle cry against fortified towns and high corner towers. I will bring such distress on the people that they will grope like the blind because of their sins against YHWH. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung; neither their gold nor their silver will save them. On the day of Yhwh's wrath, in the fire of divine jealousy, all the earth will be consumed. For YHWH intends to destroy—yes, destroy— all who dwell in the land.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalter Psalm 90:1–8

The Choir introduces the Antiphon, after which the People join in singing the Antiphon, repeating as indicated after the Choir chants the verses.



Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.
You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
Antiphon.

The Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Ms. McCrary
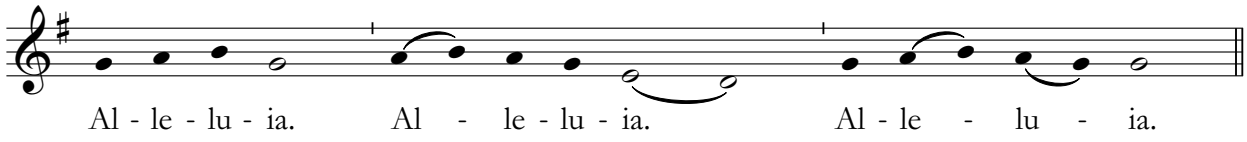
Leader: A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, the fifth chapter.

But as to specific times and eras, sisters and brothers, you don't need me to tell you anything—you know very well that the Day of God is coming like a thief in the night. Just when people are saying, "At last we have peace and security," then destruction will fall on them with the suddenness of labor pains, and there will be no escape. But you, sisters and brothers, are not in the dark. The Day of God will not catch you like a thief. No, you are all children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to the darkness or the night. So let's not be asleep as others are—let's be awake and sober! Those who sleep do so at night, and those who get drunk do so at night. But we belong to the day, so let us be sober. Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of the hope of salvation. God has destined us not to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Savior Jesus Christ, who died for us so that, whether awake or asleep, we might live together with Christ. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you're already doing.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation John 15:4a, 5b

The Choir introduces the Alleluia, which is then repeated by the Congregation.
Following the verse, all repeat the Alleluia.



Verse: Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me bears much fruit.

*The Gospel Matthew 25:14-30 Rev. David

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

"Again, it's like a wealthy landowner who was going on a journey and called in three workers, entrusting some funds to them. The first was given five thousand dollars, the second two thousand, and the third one thousand, according to each one's ability. Then the landowner went away. Immediately the worker who received the five thousand went and invested it and made another five. In the same way, the worker who received the two thousand doubled that figure. But the worker who received the one thousand instead went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried the money. "After a long absence, the traveler returned home and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five thousand came forward bringing the additional five, saying, 'You entrusted me with five thousand; here are five thousand more.' "The landowner said, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!' "The one who had received the two thousand then stepped forward with the additional two, saying, 'You entrusted me with two thousand; here are two thousand more.' "The landowner said to this one, 'Cleverly done! You too are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!' "Finally the one who had received the one thousand stepped forward and said to the landowner, 'Knowing your ruthlessness— you who reap where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter— and fearing your wrath, I went off and buried your thousand dollars in the ground. Here is your money back.' "The landowner exclaimed, 'You worthless, lazy lout! So you know that I reap where I don't sow and gather where I don't scatter, do you? All the more reason to deposit my money with the bankers, so that on my return I could have had it back with interest! You, there! Take the thousand away from this bum and give it to the one with the ten thousand. " 'Those who have will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have. Throw this worthless one outside into the darkness, where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.'

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rev. David

Prayers of Intercession Rev. David
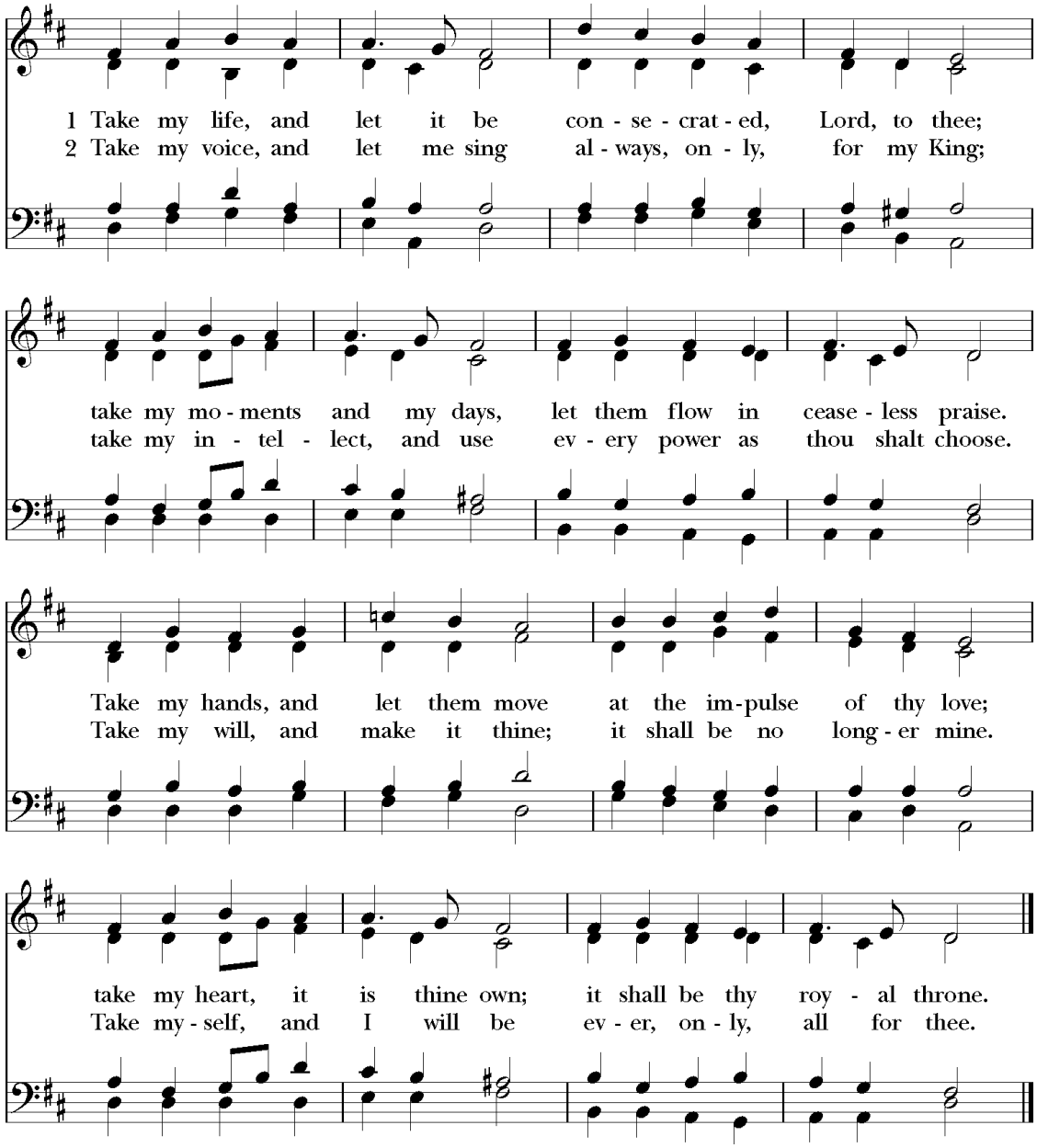
Leader: Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
People: O God of Hope, Awaken us to Your new world.

The Lord's Prayer

All: **Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn *Hollingshide,* John Bacchus Dykes, 1850

"Take my life, and let it be" Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874



The Offertory

To give online, please scan this QR code, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:

Mission Invitation — Rev. David

"If you have more than enough material possessions and see your neighbors in need yet close your hearts to them, how can the love of God be living in you?" –1 John 3:17

Out of gratitude to God and in keeping with our mission and values, every week our offering goes to support a vanguard humanitarian organization. This week, cash and designated gifts go to support First Church's **Good Samaritan Fund**, a ministry that has served our neighbors in the Columbus community since 2002. Each month "Good Sam" provides financial help to people in need who come to our church seeking assistance. Over the years, the program has helped those facing serious hardships with many services, including payment of utility bills that are in disconnection status, providing gift cards for food or gasoline, and acquiring birth certificates. Every effort is made to meet the unique, emergency needs of these neighbors. Very often, the people we help are only one unexpected medical bill or other expense away from being evicted and becoming a homeless family. Increases in the number of folks in need, as well as rising costs, have led to reductions in how much Good Sam can offer each neighbor. Thank you for your generosity.

You can use the QR code to donate to both this week's mission and to First Church! If you are giving by cash or check and would also like to give something to First Congregational Church, please use one of the giving envelopes available in the pew racks, and mark it accordingly. Thank you so much for your consideration and generosity. Any amount significant to you is significant to us.

"Put the entire tithe into the storehouse so there be food in my house! Put me to the test, says Yahweh Omnipotent, and see if I do not open windows in the sky and pour so much blessing on you that you cannot contain it!" –Malachi 3:10

Offertory Anthem — Will Todd, 2012

The Call of Wisdom — Michael Hampel, based on Proverbs 8

Lord of wisdom, Lord of truth,
Lord of justice, Lord of mercy;
walk beside us down the years
till we see you in your glory.

Striving to attain the heights
turning in a new direction,
entering a lonely place,
welcoming a friend or stranger.

I am here, I am with you.
I have called: do you hear me?
I am here, I am with you.

Silver is of passing worth,
gold is not of constant value,
jewels sparkle for a while;
what you long for is not lasting.

Rulers govern under me
with my insight and my wisdom.
Those who know me know my love;
those who seek me find their answer.

God the Father and the Son,
Holy Spirit coeternal.
Glory be ascribed to you,
now and to the end of ages.

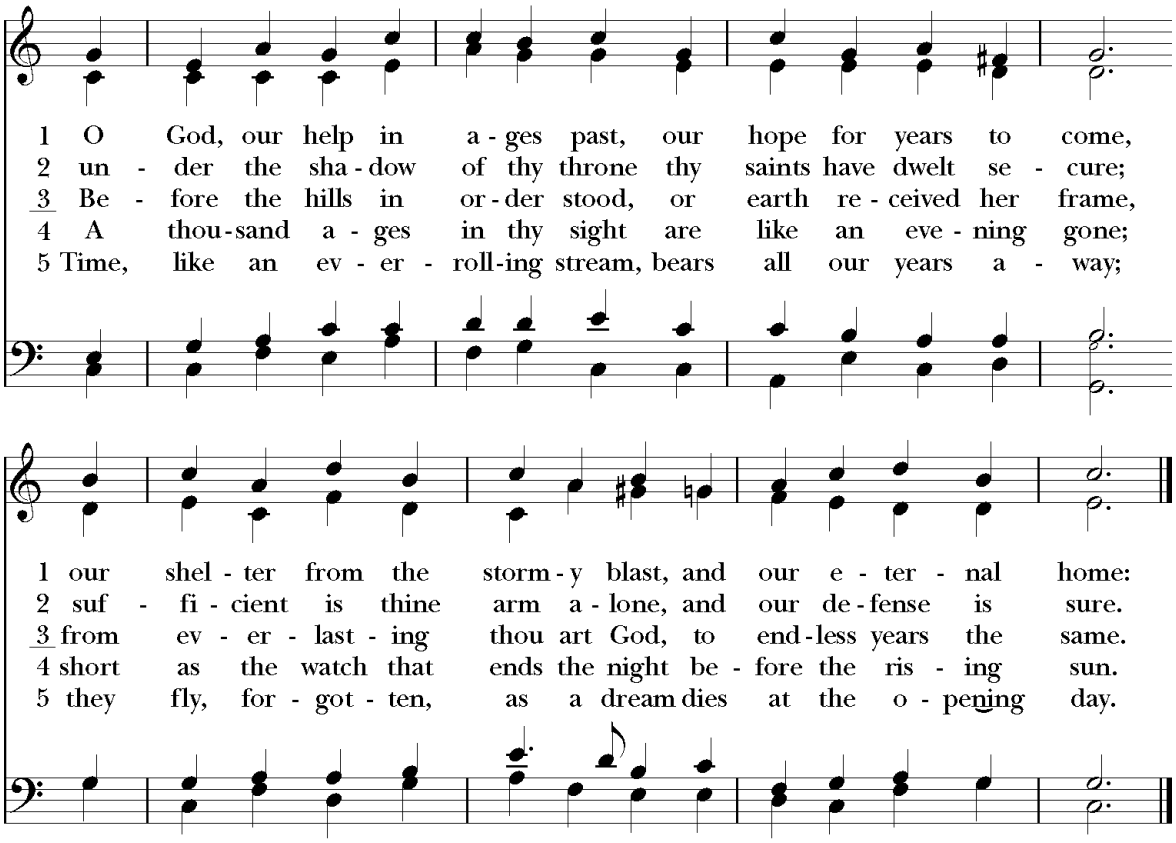
*Doxology *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Community Notices - Depart to Serve Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Closing Hymn *St. Anne,* Attr. William Croft, 1708
"O God, our help in ages past" Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.



6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Benediction Rev. David

Voluntary
Fanfare Percy Whitlock, 1933

Please be seated for the voluntary.
Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found peace and grace here and invite you to return often. If you would like more information or have any questions about First Church, please ask one of our pastors or anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.

† The Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Charlie Weaver, encouraging everyone to take a moment every day to tell someone you love them. Love you, Mary.

† Please Join Us in Parish Hall for Coffee Hour, hosted by the Gleeful Neighborhood Care Circle led by Catherine and Todd Cunningham.

† Greeting at the Exits

Rev. David — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)
Mr. Stafford — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)
Ms. Kulwicki — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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All scripture readings used in today's service are from *The Inclusive Bible*.

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Leadership in Today's Liturgy

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*
Dayna McCrary, *liturgist*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Stefan Duga, *crucifer*
Jason Harrell and Sebastian Kulwicki, *vergers*
The First Church Choir
Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*
Gregory Halbe, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship

Depart to Serve

November 15, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, November 15

9 a.m.	Worship Service & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
	Godly Play (Library)
11 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:15 p.m.	Coffee Hour & Sales (Parish Hall)
1 p.m.	Day of Remembrance (Washington Gladden Social Justice Park)
4 p.m.	Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

Monday, November 16

6 p.m.	First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
6:30 p.m.	Transition Team Mtg (Fanning Rm & Zoom)

Tuesday, November 17

7 p.m.	Church Council Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, November 18

10 a.m.	The Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery (Kitchen)
6 p.m.	Faith Formation Mtg (Teams)
6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministers Supervision Mtg (SM Rm)
7 p.m.	175th Anniversary Planning Mtg (Teams)

Thursday, November 19

11 a.m.	Fiber Arts Ministry (Fanning Rm)
6 p.m.	First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
7:15 p.m.	First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Saturday, November 21

10:30 a.m.	New Members Class (Classroom C)

Sunday, November 22

10 a.m.	A Service of Healing (Sanctuary)
11 a.m.	Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
	First Serves (Classroom D)
11:30 a.m.	Hanging of the Greens (Parish Hall)

Thoughts on Gratitude

"You've got to show kindness.
How can I love God without loving you?"

- Mahalia Jackson

Godly Play
Today at 9 a.m.

The Godly Play Sunday school class happens during the 9 a.m. worship hour. During worship, children go to the Library then return to Parish Hall for communion. Godly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to children's faith formation. Come join in the fun!

Day of Remembrance 2026
Today at 1 p.m.
Washington Gladden Social Justice Park

The City of Columbus will honor those who have been killed or seriously injured on its roads. In the Park, community members will remember all people killed and injured on central Ohio roads, streets and highways. Loved ones of those who have died or been seriously injured will speak and remember their friends and family members.

Organized by Friends and Family for Safe Streets Columbus, the event will be held on the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. The nonpartisan group works to make roads and vehicles safer while also improving post-crash care. Additionally, the event will honor emergency services that respond in times of crisis. All are welcome to attend this deeply meaningful program of remembrance.

Choral Evensong
Today at 4 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Choral Evensong is rooted in the rich liturgical tradition of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. This venerable Anglican service has a storied history that spans centuries. This service offers attendees a serene and contemplative experience, where scripture, music, and prayer intertwine. Choral Evensong invites you to connect with the divine in a profoundly meditative way, immersing yourself in a spiritual journey that is as timeless as it is beautiful.

New Members Class
Saturday, November 21, at 10 a.m. in Classroom C

If you're interested in exploring membership in First Congregational Church, our new member class will be on Saturday, November 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church.

The new member class is an opportunity to meet our ministers and lay leaders, to learn our church's history, and to see how you might find fellowship, and serve and grow spiritually through our activities and programs.

You are not required to attend a new member class in order to join our church, but we encourage participation in a class to learn the opportunities and workings of our large congregation.

Registration is closed for the new member class, but please email Steve Sterrett at ssterrett@first-church.org if you are interested or for more information.

A Service of Healing
Sunday, November 22, at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Next Sunday, there will be one service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. This is will be a Service of Healing on the Reign of Christ and the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost. Rev. Becky David will preach.

Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, November 22, at 11 a.m. throughout the Church

Next Sunday, gather after the 10 a.m. service in Parish Hall. Crews will be formed with some people staying downstairs to decorate and the rest will go upstairs to decorate.

First Serves
Sunday, November 22, at 11 a.m. in Classroom D

Help our neighbors enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving family dinner this year by donating Thanksgiving pantry items for the Broad Street Food Pantry at Broad Street Presbyterian Church. In addition to Thanksgiving dinner products (except canned pumpkin), items like pasta, cereal, canned tuna and chicken are also requested.

Please donate packaged goods at the giving tree through November 22. We will assemble boxes for delivery after the 10 a.m. service.

Please note the pantry's request of **no canned pumpkin!**

Adult Education
Sunday, November 29, at 10 a.m. in Classroom C

Join us as Antoinette Koolemans Beynen presents **St. Nicholas & Santa: Journey from European Bishop to Jolly Christmas Symbol** and the December traditions that go with him.

Discover the Dutch December celebrations centering on Saint Nicolas (Sinterklaas) that reach back across the centuries and which are still practiced in many European countries. Learn where these traditions originated, how they've been celebrated over the years, and how the patron saint of Russia evolved into the shopping mall staple we know today. Dutch born Antoinette will share what is known about him along with her own childhood traditions and samples of Dutch St. Nicolas holiday baked goods.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

Nov. 15 - Good Samaritan Fund
Nov. 22 - Bethlehem on Broad Street
Nov. 29 - World Central Kitchen

Keep in Prayer

Members Barbara Clapham; Julia Myers; Sam Spofforth; Lee Wetmore; Melva Fisher; Margaret Cipriani; Sandy Mathias; Matt Stevens and Jim Velo; Jane Ward; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Francille Firebaugh; Nancy Burba; John Carter; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt.

Family and friends Kimberly Wood and husband; Melva Fisher's cousin, Ray James; Dakotah Saunders' friend, Olena Glotova; Jim and Gail Lowe's daughter, Kim Lowe; Amanda Butler's father, Tom Lynch; Kevin Salem's uncle, Harold Allen and niece, Clare Salem; Vicki Lyden's sister, Connie Dolder; Leslie Fulford's sister, Kim Barth, and brother-in-law, Al Fulford; Pat Patterson's friend, Cindy Shealy; Jenny Provenzano's mother, Joyce Beitzel; Melissa Kulwicki's mother-in-law, Beverly Kulwicki; David Wyatt's uncle, Richard Hendrix Wyatt; Malini Peter's friend, Usha Rangarajan; Susan Brooks' friends, Marti and Ned Timmons; Susie Loik's daughter, Kelly and son, Laeric; Janice Taft's cousin, Teri Williams; Shelly Gies' father, Robert Simms and brother, Mike Simms; Jason Harrell's mother, Sherry Harrell; and Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers.

Those who mourn Dameon and Heather Jones and family on the death of their friend Arthur W. Marks, and Dameon's Aunt Belinda Kay Tracey; the family and friends of Lorene Ahrens; the family and friends of The Rev. John M. Gantt, First Church Interim Minister, 1998-1999.

We keep Stephen Ministers in prayer as they care for our church members.

We keep our Search Committee and our Future Pastor in our prayers.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the people and churches of New Zealand and Australia. We also pray for our UCC partner, the Caminante of Boca Chica, Dominican Republic.

2026 PLEDGES | PROGRESS & PRIORITIES

RECEIVED	GOAL FUNDED	STILL NEEDED
$695,069	**87.3%**	**$101,219**

01 | More than four-fifths of the goal is funded

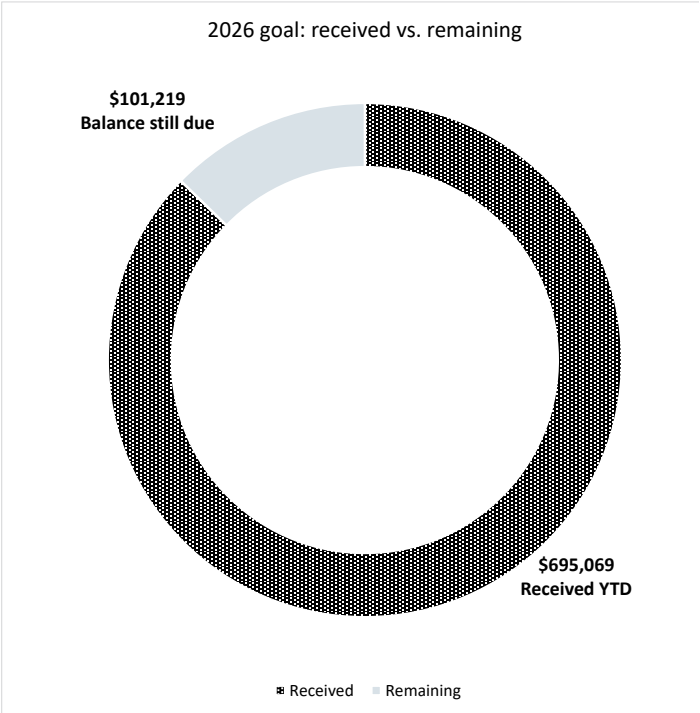
$695,069 received toward a $796,288 goal: 87.3% funded.

02 | The remaining gap needs a 0.0% uplift

$101,219 remains (12.7% of the goal). Closing that gap requires additional receipts equal to 0.0% of the amount received so far.

AUDITABLE METRICS

Received	$695,069
Remaining	$101,219
Budgeted goal	$796,288
Goal funded	87.3%
Goal remaining	12.7%

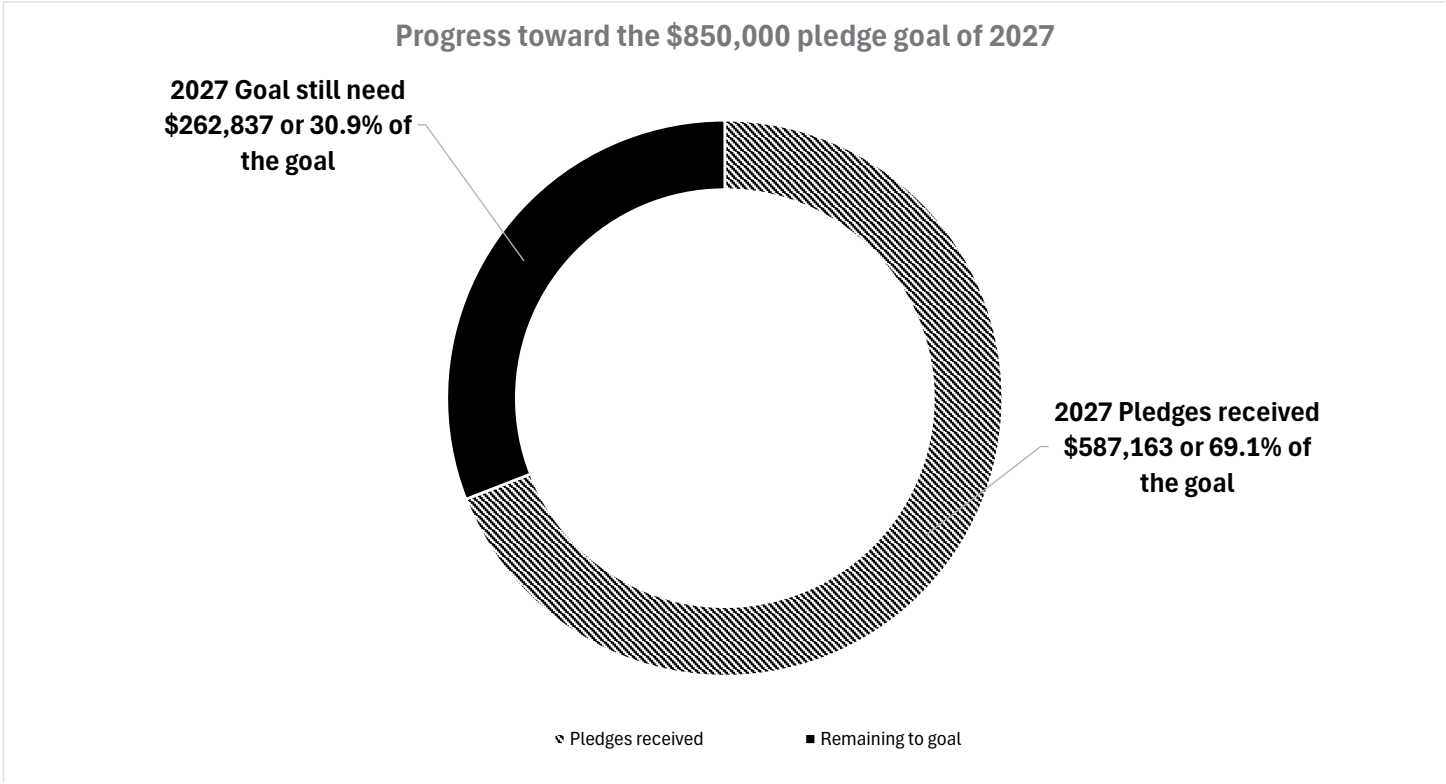


2027 Pledge Campaign

Pledges received from 109 households • 69.1% of goal reached

Campaign metric	Amount / count
2027 pledge goal	$850,000
Pledges received to date	$587,163
Goal reached	69.1%
Participating households	109

Goal breakdown	Amount
Pledges received	$587,163
Remaining to goal	$262,837



Annual Christmas Pageant Call for Cast & Crew

Do you have an eye for pageant fashion? Good at tech set up or cuing cast members walking in the dark with fire? Then we want you for the Christmas Pageant team! Many hands go into running this show and we need more of them! Adults and young adults are welcome!

There's nothing like being part of the pageant! Great costumes, fun rehearsals and dinners and the chance to be a part of a magical Christmas Eve tradition. We are assembling our cast so please let Leslie Fulford know if you are interested! We will adjust rehearsal schedules for what works best for our cast.

Use the QR Code to fill out your interest information or email Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org with questions. We'd love to have you!

Complete your Pledge for 2027 to Help Meet our Church's Goal

The stewardship campaign's goals for 2027 are pledges from 200 households that total $850,000. In 2026, 188 households pledged $796,817.

The Stewardship and Growth Commission thanks the church members and supporters who already have generously pledged. If you have not yet pledged, please make your pledge now. Your pledge is not a contract, so if for any reason you can't fulfill your pledge, simply inform Annette McCormick, church business administrator.

You may make your pledge online by using the QR code. Paper copies of the pledge form are available at each of the entrances to the sanctuary and in the church office. Please return youro pledge to the church office.

Church Leadership

Interim Senior Minister: Rev. Becky David, M.Div.
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. jessica young chang, M.Div.
Minister of Music: Joshua Stafford, M.M.
Interim Director of Faith Formation: Leslie Fulford
Administrative Manager: Amy Wagner
Communications Manager: Melissa Kulwicki
Office Assistant: Pat Patterson
Business Administrator: Annette McCormick
Building and Grounds Superintendent: Kevin Salem
Custodians: Alexis Wayne, Bill McCabe, Bob O'Brien
Handbell Director: Jennifer Fry
Wedding Coordinators: Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Denise Vogt
Nursery Staff: Miranda Brooks, Shelly Gies, Celecia Smith
Commissioned Minister for Social Justice: Tom Brownfield
Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction: Jacquelyn Dean
Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Training Coordinator: Wendy Kennedy
Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator: Susie Loik
Senior Deacon: Dayna McCrary
Deacons: Fubara Braide, Stella Braide, Camilla Curren, Kelly Dodd, Sandra Geronimo, Dean Hafey, Jason Harrell, Brian Kemp, Allison Lowery, Barbara Mason, Fran Panek, Gary Seigerst, Thomason Smith, Martha Worth
Transition Team: Jacquelyn Dean and Nancy Loy, co-chairpersons, Todd Cunningham, Rev. Becky David, Gregory Halbe, Susie Loik, Allison Lowery, Pavan Peter, Sarah Reed, Joshua Stafford

Board of Trustees
Chairperson: Frank Cook
Trustees: Matthew Bendick, David Hogrefe, Victor John, Melody Leidheiser (Secretary), Janet Miller, Sarah Reed, Hugh Schultz, Denise Vogt, Charlie Weaver
Church Council Leadership
Moderator: Sarah Reed
Moderator-elect:
Treasurer: Ramona Moenter
Treasurer-elect:
Secretary: Amanda Butler
Secretary-elect:
Nominating Chair: Gregory Halbe
Commissioners
Church Stewardship and Church Growth: Stephen Sterrett
Church Stewardship and Church Growth-elect: Kathy Reed
Church Vitality: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen
Church Vitality-elect:
Communications and Technology Commission: Nathaniel Powell
Communications and Technology Commission-elect:
Faith Formation Commission: Mariner Taft
Faith Formation Commission-elect:
House & Grounds: Eric Klintworth
House & Grounds-elect: Fran Panek
Justice & Mercy: James Lowe
Justice & Mercy-elect:
Music, Arts & Heritage: Jim Griffin
Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Cheryl Hoskinson
Member-at-Large: Martha Wilson
Personnel: Neal Brower
Personnel-elect: Chris Brooks
Youth Member-at-Large:

First Church is a Faith Community

† Called together by God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
† Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
† Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.

We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and holy scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation
Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation

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